

**To:** Ohio Advisory Committee Members

**From:** Edith Thrower, Member

**Date:** January 9, 2017

**RE: Revisions to the Report on Human Trafficking**

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Although I was able to make a considerable contribution to the report on barriers to entrepreneurship, the same is untrue for our work on the issue of human trafficking.

Therefore, I will limit my comments to an observation that I hope you will consider before publishing the report on human trafficking, and amend it accordingly.

Human trafficking is no doubt a serious and egregious offense in our global society today, but it is not a form slavery, especially as we know it, and when compared to slavery in America from 1619 to 1865.

The report describes human trafficking as "modern or Twenty-First Century form of slavery. Human trafficking is generally divided into two different categories based upon the form of compelled services the victim is providing—sex trafficking or labor trafficking." It goes on to say that the recruited victims are often paid, albeit, minimally.

Scholarship about the transcontinental slave trade or the "peculiar institution" of the South, was quite different than what is described above. It included [racial] violence, severe punishments, branding, mutilations, murder, rape, division of families, sale of children, the victims were not considered human, they were, however, considered the "legal" property of the slave holder, slavery was legalized, and laws and slave patrols were established to a considerable effort. There was an inherent violence and cruelty in the system of American slavery. The slaves were all African and they were never paid a dime for their sun up and sun down work efforts to build up the American economy.

In my opinion, our committee's report should simply refer to human trafficking as "human trafficking" free of comparisons to slavery. Removing such a comparison

does not harm the report's integrity. But the inference to modern day slave trade is offensive.